

U. S. Mint at Philadelphia  
Melting & Refining Department  
Philad<sup>a</sup> 7 Feb. 1879

Hon. John Sherman  
Secretary of the Treasury  
Washington City, D.C.  
Sir

I trust you will pardon the liberty I take in addressing you on the subject of the Directorship of the Mint, and ascribe it to its true motive, a personal interest in the Institution, founded on my appointment by President Yaylor, and fostered through a period of thirty years service, as one of its officers. Understanding that there is no candidate in the field, and knowing practically the importance of special experience in the detailed working of the Mintage system, I trust that I may not be deemed presumptuous in speaking favorably of Mr. R. E. Preston, a clerk to the late Director. When he was deputed by the late Director to investigate difficulties, apparent or real, that occurred in this Institution, he



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he exhibited such thoroughness & skill in research  
and such marked integrity, that I could not but draw  
favorable conclusions as to his mental & moral power,  
which now lead me to believe that he would prove both  
creditable and valuable to the Government in the ca-  
pacity of Director.

Of course I am only speaking of his personal  
qualities and adaptedness, and know not of other  
determinants of qualification for the position, all  
of which ought, if practicable, to converge in the  
person appointed.

I have the honor to be, sir,  
Your obed<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup> & well wisher  
J. A. C. Booth